

App. No.: 10/647,393
Amendment Dated February 22, 2007
Attorney Docket No.: 60589.000013

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Applicants amended some claims, as indicated below.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A testing device for testing or analyzing fluids comprising:

at least one test member including an analysis reagent and having opposite side surfaces surrounded by edge portions, and

a holder including retaining means for receiving and retaining the at least one test member in a predetermined relative position in the holder,

said retaining means comprising an abutment surface, engaging with one of said side surfaces of the at least one test member, and projections, which are positioned and tooth-shaped with pointed ends so as to allow insertion of the at least one test member into the holder by at least some of the projections comprising a leading edge forming a ramp sloping towards a plane defined by the abutment surface, and wherein said leading edge forms a cutting edge for at least partly cutting into one of the edge portions of the at least one test member so as to facilitate insertion of the at least one test member into the holder when the at least one test member is moved moving the test member into engagement with said abutment surface while the projections engaging engage with opposite edge portions thereof of the at least one test member.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Previously Presented) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein each of at least some of the projections has a trailing edge or surface extending substantially parallel with and spaced from a plane defined by the abutment surface.
5. (Original) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the projections are positioned so as to be differently spaced from the plane defined by the abutment surface.
6. (Previously Presented) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the holder comprises a channel-shaped member including an inner bottom surface defining said abutment surface and opposite inner side surfaces from which projections extend in opposite directions.
7. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one test member is an elongated member of the "lateral flow stick" type, in which the fluid to be tested is supplied at one end of the elongated test member.
8. (Previously Presented) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the holder is frame-shaped and defines an opening therein, the abutment surface extending around and adjacent to said opening.
9. (Previously Presented) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the holder includes upper and lower complementary surfaces so as to allow stacking of a plurality of testing devices on top of each other.
10. (Previously Presented) A testing device according to claim 9, wherein said complementary surfaces are shaped so as to allow mutual displacement of stacked testing devices in a direction transverse to the longitudinal direction of the stack.
11. (Withdrawn) A method for colorimetrically testing milk comprising placing a sample of the milk onto the test member of the testing device according to claim 1, allowing the

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analysis reagent to react with the sample and colorimetrically determining the reaction with an analyzer.

12. (Currently Amended) A holder for a testing device according to claim 1 comprising said holder comprising a retaining means for receiving and retaining a at least one test member, which has opposite side surfaces surrounded by edge portions, wherein in a predetermined relative position in the holder said receiving and retaining means comprising comprises an abutment surface for engaging with one of said side surfaces of the at least one test member and projections, which are positioned and tooth-shaped with pointed ends so as to allow insertion of the at least one test member into the holder by providing at least some of the projections with a leading edge forming a ramp sloping towards a plane defined by said abutment surface and wherein said leading edge forms a cutting edge for at least partly cutting into one of the edge portions of the at least one test member when moving the at least one test member is moved into engagement with said abutment surface while the projections engage with opposite edge portions thereof of the at least one test member.

13. (Previously Presented) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the projections are tooth-shaped with pointed ends.

14. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 12, wherein each of at least some of the projections includes a leading edge forming a ramp sloping towards a plane

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defined by the abutment surface so as to facilitate insertion of the at least one test member into the holder.

15. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 12, wherein each of at least some of the projections includes include a trailing edge or surface extending substantially parallel with and spaced from a plane defined by the abutment surface.

16. (Original) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the projections are positioned so as to be differently spaced from the plane defined by the abutment surface.

17. (Previously Presented) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder is a channel-shaped member having an inner bottom surface defining said abutment surface and opposite inner side surfaces from which projections extend in opposite directions.

18. (Previously Presented) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder is frame-shaped and defines an opening therein, the abutment surface extending around and adjacent to said opening.

19. (Previously Presented) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder includes upper and lower complementary surfaces so as to allow stacking of a plurality of holders on top of each other.

20. (Previously Presented) A holder according to claim 19, wherein said complementary surfaces are shaped so as to allow mutual displacement of stacked holders in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the stack.

21. (Original) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder has been integrally formed.

22. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the holder further comprises an upper side and a lower side in relation to an analysis instrument,

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and wherein the retaining means are positioned and shaped so as to allow insertion of the at least one test member in to the holder from the upper side.

23. (Currently Amended) A holder according to claim 12, wherein the holder further comprises an upper side and a lower side in relation to an analysis instrument, and wherein the retaining means are positioned and shaped so as to allow insertion of the at least one test member in to the holder from the upper side.

24. (Withdrawn) A cartridge for receiving, storing and unloading a plurality of stacked testing devices, the cartridge comprising:

- a housing defining an internal passage for said plurality of stacked testing devices, said housing comprising:
 - a lower charge opening for receiving said plurality of stacked testing devices,
 - a support member for supporting a lower testing device in said plurality of stacked testing devices,
 - an upper abutment surface for engaging with an upper testing device in the plurality of stacked testing devices, and
 - an upper discharge opening, substantially aligned with said upper testing device, so as to allow discharge of said upper testing device by displacing the upper testing device along said abutment surface.

25. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the housing is assembled of two halves, together defining opposite side surfaces, and a front and a back surface.

26. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 25, wherein the two halves are detachably or non-detachably assembled.

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27. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 24, wherein at least the discharge opening comprises guiding trails or incisions for guiding a testing device upon discharging.
28. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the side surfaces comprise guiding trails for guiding said plurality of stacked testing devices through the passage.
29. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 25, wherein the side surfaces further comprise at least one serrated track on the inside, forming one side of an internal one-way stair for a support member.
30. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the support member is movable in relation to the housing.
31. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 24, further comprising one-way means associated with the movable support member allowing the movable support member to move in a direction towards the upper abutment surface.
32. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 31, wherein said one-way means comprises at least one succession of teeth, and at least one pawl member co-operating therewith.
33. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 24, comprising at least two pawl members, which are connected to the supporting member to co-operate with a succession of teeth formed on an inner side surface of the storage container, the free ends of the pawl members being spaced in the longitudinal direction of the container by a distance different from a multiple of the pitch of the succession of teeth.
34. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the side surfaces further comprises a locking device in the vicinity of the discharge opening, for preventing unintentional discharges of testing devices.

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35. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 34, wherein the locking device comprises at least one flexible protrusion obstructing at least a part of said discharge opening.

36. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 24, further comprising an external protrusion for abutting a support surface on a storage carousel in an analysis instrument.

37. (Withdrawn) A load device for loading a stack of testing devices into a cartridge, the load device comprising:

- a base member,
- a first and a second column oppositely arranged and extending upwards from said base member, and adapted to receive and hold one or more testing devices therebetween, and
- a lifting device for slidably lifting at least one of said testing devices along said columns.

38. (Withdrawn) A load device according to claim 37, wherein each column comprises a groove for receiving and guiding an end of a test stick.

39. (Withdrawn) A load device according to claim 37, wherein the lifting device comprises a handle for manually sliding said lifting device along said columns.

40. (Withdrawn) A load device according to claim 37, wherein the lifting device is automatically slid along said columns.

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41. (Withdrawn) A load device according to claim 37, wherein the lifting device further comprises a support surface for supporting at least a part of the lower testing device in said stack of testing devices.

42. (Withdrawn) A load device according to claims 41, wherein the stack of testing devices is loaded into a cartridge according to claim 24 and wherein the support member of said cartridge is arranged between said support surface of said lifting device and the lower most testing device in said stack.

43. (Withdrawn) A load device according to claim 37, wherein the lifting device further comprises guiding means abutting a side portion of said first and second columns so as to guide the device along the columns.

44. (Withdrawn) A method for loading a plurality of testing devices into a cartridge by using a load device, the load device comprising:

- a base member,
- a first and a second column oppositely arranged and extending upwards from said base member, and being adapted to receive and hold one or more testing devices therebetween, and
- a lifting device for slidably lifting at least one of said testing devices along said columns,

the method comprising the steps of:

- stacking one or more of said testing devices between the columns,
- guiding an empty cartridge from above the columns and down towards the base member,

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-lifting the lifting device to push the testing devices upwards until the upper most testing device abuts an upper abutment surface of said cartridge,

-removing the cartridge loaded with the testing devices from said load device.

45. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 44, further comprising, prior to the step of stacking at least one of said testing devices, the step of placing a support member between the columns for supporting and holding the stack of testing devices inside said cartridge upon removing the cartridge loaded with the testing devices.

46. (Currently Amended) A testing device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one test member has the shape of a sheet-like or plate-like test member.

47. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 32, wherein said at least one succession of teeth comprises rack or ratchet teeth.

48. (Withdrawn) A cartridge according to claim 33, wherein the distance is smaller than said pitch.